

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6139

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0809

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO ASST. SEC. SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR US MP XA OAU
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM'S INTEREST IN SOUTHERN
AFRICAN QUESTIONS

REF: PORT LOUIS 808

1. WHEN I MENTIONED PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO
MINISTER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SIR HAROLD WALTER, IN COURESE OF
BRIEFING HIM ON UNGA ISSUES SEPTEMBER 10 (REFTEL), HE SAID
HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SOME"CANDID" COMMENTS, WHICH HE
PHRASED AS FOLLOWS: "YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE TALKS WITH
VORSTER. THEN HE BRIEFS CALLAGHAN AND GISCARD ON THESE
TALKS, AND HE SENDS YOUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO BRIEF NYERERE,
KAUNDA AND THE OTHERS. YET NO ONE COMES TO BRIEF THE OLD
MAN (RAMGOOLAM), WHO IS, AFTER ALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU
AND SOMEONE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THESE PROBLEMS. WOULDN'T
IT BE WISE TO KEEP HIM INFORMED AND BUILD HIM UP AS A MODERATE
STATESMAN WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THESE
PROBLEMS?"

2. MY RESPONSE WAS THAT THESE ARE EXTREMELY DELICATE
NEGOTIATIONS AND IT WAS DOUBTLESS DECIDED TO LIMIT BRIEFINGS
TO THOSE MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED, NAMELY, THE CHIEFS OF STATE
OF THE COUNTRIES BORDERING THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN "PROBLEM"
STATES AND TERRITORIES. I SAID I HAD NOT REALIZED THAT THE
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PRIME MINISTER WAS INVOLVING HIMSELF AS OAU CHAIRMAN IN THESE

ISSUES. SIR HAROLD SAID NOT ONLY WAS HE VERY MUCH CONCERNED, BUT HE WAS ABOUT TO SEND MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT FORD, GISCARD AND PERHAPS OTHERS SETTING FORTH THE "MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS" (TO THE BLACK AFRICANS) FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE WOULD BE DOING THIS IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE OAU, WALTER SAID. THE DRAFT MESSAGES WERE NOW ON RAMGOOLAM'S DESK AND WOULD GO OUT PERHAPS TODAY. (WALTER LATER ASKED IF THE EMBASSY COULD TRANSMIT THE MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FORD, IN THE INTEREST OF SPEED, AND I AGREED.) WALTER SAID HE WOULD BE LEAVING HERE ON MONDAY TO VISIT VARIOUS AFRICAN CAPITALS ON OAU BUSINESS, PARTICULARLY SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS.
KEELEY

NOTE BY OC/T: PORT LOUIS 0809 NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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